History (HIST)

Faculty

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Beth Barton Schweiger, Associate Professor
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Trish Starks, Associate Professor
Daniel E. Sutherland, Distinguished Professor
Elliott West, Distinguished Professor
Jeannie Whayne, Professor
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http://history.uark.edu/index.php/grad_program

Degrees Conferred:

M.A., Ph.D. (HIST)

Prerequisites to Degree Program: Graduate work at the master’s level presupposes an undergraduate major in that subject of approximately 30 semester hours. In addition, students must have achieved cumulative undergraduate grade point average of 3.0 or a grade point average of 3.25 in the last 60 hours of undergraduate work, a minimum Verbal score of 550 and a minimum Analytical Writing score of 4.5 on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). Students who present a minimum of 30 hours in history may be admitted without deficiency. Students who present between 18 and 30 hours of history may be admitted with or without deficiency, subject to the determination of the Graduate Studies Committee. Students who present less than 18 hours of history may not be admitted without deficiency. The Graduate Studies Committee will determine the nature of the deficiency requirements.

Graduate work at the doctoral level presupposes a Master of Arts in History, although the Graduate Studies Committee will consider outstanding applicants with Master’s degrees in related disciplines. Applicants ought to have at least a 3.25 GPA in their previous graduate work as well as a minimum 550 Verbal (or 156 on the new exam) and 4.5 Analytical Writing score on the GRE.

Applicants to the graduate programs in History must send all college transcripts and GRE scores to the Graduate School, to be forwarded to the department. Additionally, they must apply online at the History Department website noted above. Online materials to submit include a statement of intent describing their goals in graduate study, a resume or CV, three letters of recommendation, and a writing sample. If applicants are unable to apply online, they must contact the Graduate Director to make alternative arrangements. Master’s applications are due February 1 each year; Ph.D. applications are due December 1 each year.

Requirements for the Master of Arts Degree: Students seeking the Master of Arts degree must complete at least 30 hours of history at the 4000-level and above, including HIST 5023 Historical Methods, 6 hours of HIST 600V Master’s Thesis, only three hours of independent study, and a minimum of 9 seminar hours (either reading or research), and must maintain a minimum 3.0 GPA in all course work for the M.A. degree. HIST 5043 Historiography can be used to fulfill partially the seminar requirement. Of the eight required courses at the 4000 and 5000 levels, at least three must be in areas outside of the main field of specialization. Master’s candidates must complete and satisfactorily defend a master’s thesis in history as judged by a panel of departmental faculty.

Requirements for the Doctor of Philosophy Degree: During the first semester of study, all doctoral students will be assigned an advisory committee that will determine their particular programs. Students will select four fields of historical specialization. Students will also be required to meet the departmental language requirement by establishing reading competency in at least one foreign language. At the discretion of the student’s advisory committee, doctoral students may be required to prove reading competency in additional foreign languages if appropriate to their respective fields of research and study.

After completing the course of study prescribed by their advisory committees (with a minimum 3.0 GPA in all course work for the Ph.D. degree) and satisfying the language requirements, students may apply to take the candidacy examinations. These consist of written exams in each of the four specialized fields and an oral examination. When these examinations have been passed, students may apply for admission to candidacy. Within six months of passing the written and oral exams in all four fields, ABD students will write and defend a dissertation prospectus.

All students must demonstrate a capacity for independent research by the writing of an original dissertation on a topic within their major area of study. Upon admission to candidacy, students will be assigned a dissertation committee with a major professor as chair to direct the research and writing. Under direction of the major professor, candidates will develop programs of reading in the general areas and research techniques pertinent to researching and writing their dissertations.

The student’s final examination will be an oral defense of the dissertation.